

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 641

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the pastor and congregation of Barton's Creek Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's 160th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements that contribute to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Barton's Creek Baptist Church of Lebanon, which celebrated its 160th anniversary on Sunday, May 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, organized on April 21, 1849 in the Clemmons School House, Barton's Creek was founded by charter members W.P. Wilburn, Mary Johnson, R.S. Wilburn, and Nancy Wilburn; Brother W.P. Wilburn served as the first pastor from 1849 until 1857; and

WHEREAS, Barton's Creek Baptist Church (BCBC) joined the Salem Association in 1850; in 1888, the congregation joined the New Salem Association and finally became part of the newly organized Wilson County Baptist Association on May 23, 1921; and

WHEREAS, a new church building was constructed in 1896, and Elijah Maddox served as the first moderator; in 1921, J. H. Johnson deeded one acre of land in front of the church to be used as a cemetery; and

WHEREAS, during the early years of the church, services were held on the third Saturday and Sunday of each month; after February of 1934, services moved to the first and third Sundays of each month; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1944, the church voted to begin holding "full-time," or weekly, services; and

WHEREAS, desiring to reach out to their community, the congregation of BCBC founded a mission on the west side of Lebanon in an old service station, which eventually became Immanuel Baptist Church; at the mission, Sunday School was led by Charlie Tatum, and Wendell Price stood as the afternoon preacher; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 1950, the church voted to build a parsonage; upon its completion, the parsonage welcomed its first residents, Brother Cannie Leonard and his family; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the BCBC church building has undergone a number of repairs, improvements, and additions; in 1960, a new Educational Building was constructed; in 1964, the Fellowship Men's Sunday School class was given permission to build a new Fellowship Building, which now houses many of the church's classrooms; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 1965, plans for a new sanctuary were drawn up by the Building Committee, which included B. Ray McCarley, Joe Reed, Ezra Manning, Raymond Dedman, and Ham Johnson; the new sanctuary was completed in August of 1971; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, under the astute direction of Brother E. Donald Dorris, who was the pastor at the time, a new fellowship hall was constructed; stained glass windows were added to the hall in August of 2001, and a pavilion was built in May of 2005 and dedicated in memory of Houston and Mattie Moore McCartney; and

WHEREAS, today the members of Barton's Creek Baptist Church are learning and growing in their faith under the wise and God-focused leadership of Brother Terry W. Cathey, who has been shepherding the church members as their faithful pastor since 2001; and

WHEREAS Barton's Creek Baptist Church of Lebanon is truly one of the great religious institutions and is a catalyst for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exemplary institution should be appropriately honored for their exceptional service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members and pastor of Barton's Creek

Baptist Church on the celebration of the church's 160th anniversary, offering our best wishes for many years of continued success in serving God and humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.